DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 271 380 SO 017 352

TITLE	The Jefferson Meeting on the Constitution: The Constitution in the Community. A Guide to Organizing a Community Jefferson Meeting.
INSTITUTION	Jefferson Foundation, Washington, DC.
PUB DATE	85
NOTE	22p.; For other guides in this series, see SO 017 351-358.
AVAILABLE FROM	The Jefferson Foundation, 1529 18th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036 ($6.00).
PUB TYPE	Guides - Non-Classroom Use (055)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	*Citizen Participation; *Community Action; Community Coordination; *Community Involvement; Community Organizations; Constitutional History; Government (Administrative Body); Governmental Structure; Political Science; Social Responsibility

ABSTRACT

Since its founding in 1983, The Jefferson Foundation has engaged increasing numbers of Americans in study and discussion of the U.S. Constitution. Through participation in Jefferson Meetings on the Constitution citizens will come to a fuller understanding of how the Constitution was made, why it designed the national government the way it did, and how it structures political life. Setting up a community meeting to examine and reassess the institutions of American government and the Constitution is the focus of this four part document. Part 1 defines what a Jefferson Meeting is and gives a rationale for developing such a meeting. Part 2, planning, discusses the topics of leadership, spreading the word, delegate selection, facilities, the program, expenses, and fund-raising. Part 3 presents a step-by-step guide to the Jefferson Meeting on the Constitution. The roles include a plenary chairperson, discussion leaders, floor managers, and delegates. The basic steps include setting the agenda, the opening session, the issue committee meeting, and the plenary session. Part 4 summarizes the conference proceedings in a step-by-step fashion. The document concludes with a publications order form, a sample brochure, and an application form. (RSL)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED271380

THE JEFFERSON MEETING ON THE CONSTITUTION:

The Constitution in the Community

SP017352

A Guide to Organizing a Community Jefferson Meeting

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
William E. Merriman, Jr.
TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

☒ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

This publication may be photocopied in part or in full it attributed as follows: "Reprinted from "The Jefferson Meeting on the Constitution: The Constitution in the Community," published by The Jefferson Foundation, Washington, D.C." The Jefferson Foundation would appreciate notification from those who reproduce this material.

Copyright © 1985 by The Jefferson Foundation

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART I - WHAT IS A JEFFERSON MEETING ON THE CONSTITUTION?

What is a Jefferson Meeting? 1
Why have a Jefferson Meeting? 2

PART II - PLANNING YOUR JEFFERSON MEETING

Leadership 3
Spreading the word 3
Delegate Selection 3
Facilities 4
Program 4
Expenses 4
Fund-raising 5

PART III - A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO THE JEFFERSON MEETING ON THE CONSTITUTION

Roles in the Jefferson Meeting 6
Plenary Chairperson 6
Discussion Leaders 6
Floor Managers 6
Delegates 7

Basic Steps in the Jefferson Meeting 7
Setting the Agenda 7
The Opening Session 8
Issue Committee Meetings 8
The Plenary Session 8

Schedules 9

PART IV - SUMMARY

Outline 11

PUBLICATIONS ORDER FORM 13

SAMPLE BROCHURE/APPLICATION

PART I

WHAT IS A JEFFERSON MEETING ON THE CONSTITUTION?

What is a Jefferson Meeting?

A Jefferson Meeting on the Constitution is an assembly by and for the citizens of your community to examine and reassess the institutions of American government as we enter our third century under the Constitution. About two hundred years ago a small group of Americans gathered in Philadelphia and designed a new government. The government they created reflected their beliefs about human nature, their learning—from historical study and personal experience—about the strengths and weaknesses of different kinds of governments, and their preferences about the kind of society and political system that should be "constituted" by a new Constitution.

It is appropriate, indeed necessary, that Americans should periodically assess how well the government created in Philadelphia in 1787 is working. Thomas Jefferson wrote in 1816 that "I am certainly not an advocate for frequent and untried changes in laws and constitutions. . . But . . . laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind." Americans have taken Jefferson's belief to heart, and have amended the Constitution twenty-six times. The aim of the Jefferson Meeting is to promote, in this Jeffersonian spirit, informed and rational discussion of the fundamentals of the American constitutional system and the contemporary performance of American government.

A community Jefferson Meeting will involve from fifty to one hundred-fifty citizens in discussions of questions like the following:

Is it desirable for the nation to hold a constitutional convention as provided for by Article V in order to propose amendments to the Constitution, or should the process of constitutional revision be confined, as in the past, to separate amendments initiated by Congress?

Would Presidents be less concerned with re-election, and thus more effective leaders, if the Constitution were amended to give Presidents of the United States a single six-year term?

Should there be a tenure limitation, such as a fifteen-year term, for federal judges and Justices of the Supreme Court?

Would it be wise to abolish the Electoral College and provide for the direct popular election of the President?

Would the House of Representatives be a more effective body if the terms of members were extended to three or four years? What would we gain and what would we lose by limiting all members of Congress to no more than twelve years of continuous service?

Should the President be given an "item veto" that would allow certain parts of a bill to be vetoed while the remainder is approved? Should Congress be given a "legislative veto" that would allow it to veto actions taken by the executive branch in implementing legislation already passed?

Discussion by delegates of these issues begins in "issue committees," with each committee focusing on one of the issues listed above. Each issue committee then leads off discussion of its issue during a general plenary session that involves all the delegates to the Jefferson Meeting in discussions of all the issues on the Meeting's agenda. Discussion of these issues is aided by Jefferson Foundation Discussion Guides. The titles of these guides are:

To Make and Alter Their Constitutions of Government, (Article V and amendment by convention);

So Great a Power to Any Single Person, (presidential term of office);

During Good Behavior, (judicial tenure);

The Plain Simple Business of Election, (The electoral college);

The Root of Republican Government, (terms and tenure of members of the House of Representatives); and

To Control the Abuses of Government, (item and legislative vetoes).

These Discussion Guides are included with this Community Guide. Details on ordering these Discussion Guides for use by delegates to your Meeting are provided later in this Guide.

Why have a Jefferson Meeting?

There are many good reasons to have a Jefferson Meeting in your community. Jefferson Meetings are wonderful educational experiences. Delegates take from a Meeting a fuller understanding of how the Constitution was designed and of how it shapes our contemporary government and politics. For example, delegates will discuss how the Electoral College was designed and the reason the Founders relied on it, instead of voters, to choose a President. They will also consider whether the realities of contemporary political life make it advisable to retain or abolish this electoral college method for choosing Presidents.

A Jefferson Meeting is also an exercise in civic participation. The citizens of your community will organize and carry out their Jefferson Meeting. By running their own Jefferson Meeting delegates exercise their right to assemble and discuss their government. Moreover, effective Jefferson Meetings emphasize the value in political life of procedures that allow for open debate. Meetings also emphasize the importance of tolerance and respect for persons with differing views and opinions.

A Jefferson Meeting can play an important role in building a stronger sense of community in your town. By bringing together a diverse group of citizens for a serious discussion of important issues a Jefferson Meeting can kindle a stronger sense of shared life and purpose in your community.

Finally, it must be said that Jefferson Meetings are fun. While a Jefferson Meeting requires planning and involves discussion of important issues, the feeling of an overwhelming number of participants in such Meetings is that they are exciting, interesting and fun.

PART II

PLANNING YOUR JEFFERSON MEETING

Leadership

Organizing a Jefferson Meeting is not a one-person job, and even if it were possible for one person to successfully take on such a job, it is preferable to involve a number of people in planning the Meeting. One approach to leadership and planning that has worked well is the creation of a "Council," e.g. "The Smithville Council." Your Council should be made up of ten to fifteen community members who are interested in holding a Jefferson Meeting and willing to devote some time and effort to making the Meeting happen.

Your Council should reflect the diversity of your community as fully as possible. This means involving, if possible, persons from the business community, labor unions, churches, the news media, schools, neighborhoods, and government. A good Council sends important messages to your community. It tells community members that your Jefferson Meeting is non-partisan, that all kinds of people are welcome to participate, and that a number of important people in your town think a Jefferson Meeting is a worthwhile activity.

Once a Council is in place, the various aspects of organizing a Meeting can be assigned to different members. You may want to create small groups to take care of raising funds, publicizing the meeting, recruiting and selecting delegates, printing and mailing materials, arranging facilities, finding a speaker and discussion leaders, etc. An effective fund-raiser can make the whole process of putting on a Meeting much easier. Look for people who have experience with writing grants, who have good connections with the business community, and who know how to make a "pitch" for your Meeting.

Spreading the Word

When the time and place of your Meeting have been set you will want to publicize the Meeting throughout the community. Some ways of doing this are obvious. For instance, you can prepare news releases on your Meeting and attempt to publicize the meeting through newspapers, radio, and television. Having a member of the news media on your Council will be useful when it comes to publicizing your Meeting. Probably just as important is to get the word about the Meeting into all the little networks and grapevines that move information in your town: churches, the Lions Club, the PTA, the union locals, neighborhood associations, the local "Y," and so on.

To reach people and give them the concrete opportunity to express an interest in becoming a delegate to your Jefferson Meeting, you will probably want to print and distribute a brochure and application form that looks like the one reproduced at the end of the Guide. Give these brochures to groups to distribute and mail them to persons whom the Council has identified as being likely to be interested in participating in your Meeting.

Delegate Selection

Members of the Council will make final decisions about who will be selected as delegates to the Meeting. In general, you can count on including all comers. But it is important to be sensitive to the fact that some potential delegates have agendas

of their own for your Meeting, and theirs may not mesh well with yours. It should be made clear that your Meeting is concerned with certain proposals related to the structure and performance of our government. You simply must not allow digressions into abortion, school prayer, and other such items. If a potential delegate seems unlikely to play by those rules, think carefully about his or her acceptance for participation.

Facilities

A Jefferson Meeting can be held in a variety of settings, but there are some general requirements to keep in mind. Committees need separate rooms for their meetings, and ideally pro and con groups within committees will have their own meeting rooms. If that many rooms are not easily available try to find rooms for committee meetings that will allow pro and con groups to work without distracting each other. The plenary session should be held in an area that will comfortably accommodate all Meeting delegates. Keep in mind that many delegates will be getting up to speak during the plenary. The chairperson should probably have a podium and a microphone. Unless the plenary meeting room has exceptional acoustics at least one other microphone will be needed for the delegates who will be speaking. Additional microphones will allow delegates to exchange ideas freely without having to climb over other delegates to reach a single microphone.

Program

Prepare a program that provides delegates with a schedule of the Meeting. You may want to supplement this information with a brief summary of the Meeting's rules of procedure, a list of your Council's members, an acknowledgement of persons who contributed to the Meeting, a list of discussion leaders, and a list of all the delegates.

Expenses

You can exercise a good deal of control over the expense of your Jefferson Meeting with the decisions you make about meals, facilities, and other things. Some items, though, are indispensable. Probably foremost among these necessary items are the Discussion Guides. They are the key to giving all the delegates an equal starting point for discussion and debate. Ideally each delegate should receive Discussion Guides on all the issues to be discussed at the Meeting. This assures that each delegate has an opportunity for knowledgeable participation in discussion of his or her committee's issue and the other issues discussed during the plenary session. At a minimum, delegates will need the Discussion Guide that is appropriate to their committee assignment.

Jefferson Foundation Discussion Guides are sold, at cost, for .75 each to groups that are organizing a Jefferson Meeting. For a meeting of 150 delegates to discuss four issues the cost of the Guides would be:

150 delegates x 4 Discussion Guides x .75 = $450.

Another example:

100 delegates x 3 Discussion Guides x .75 = $225.

A list of Jefferson Foundation publications and an order form are on the last page of this Guide.

Other expenses to budget for are the printing of brochures and programs, postage for mailing, rent (if necessary) for meeting facilities and public address equipment, an honorarium (if necessary) for the keynote speaker, and any meals to be provided.

Fund-raising

There are a number of ways to raise the money needed to meet expenses. Delegates to community meetings have been asked, in some cases, to pay a registration fee of $5. Before establishing such a fee, consider its likely impact on your pool of potential delegates. If it seems likely that such a fee will prevent some persons from participating you may want to avoid a fee or make a contribution optional.

Another fund-raising route is to simply ask individuals and organizations to contribute to the Meeting. A Jefferson Meeting is a worthwhile community undertaking and you can "sell" the idea to your state humanities council, local civic organizations and foundations, and individuals. Don't overlook the possibility of "in kind" rather than money support. Perhaps a local school building can be made available for your Meeting, or a public address system donated, or access to a mimeograph machine provided.

It is in this area of fund-raising and finding "in kind" support that a good Council can be a real plus. That is a good thing to keep in mind when approaching members of the community about becoming members of your Council. If the "right" individuals become interested in organizing a Jefferson Meeting, they can make the Meeting much easier to organize and execute.

PART III

A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO THE JEFFERSON MEETING ON THE CONSTITUTION

Roles in the Jefferson Meeting

There are a number of key roles to be played in a Jefferson Meeting, and you should take care to make sure that the right people are chosen for these roles. Some of these roles are played by non-delegates whom you will recruit to help lead the Meeting. Others are played by persons who are also delegates.

Plenary Chairperson

The plenary chairperson calls the plenary session to order, presides over the debate, calls on speakers in turn, fields questions from the floor, and keeps time. This job calls for a firm hand, a sense of humor, tact, and poise. The chairperson must stand above the issues being discussed and should not express opinions about the issues. It is not important that the chairperson be a master of parliamentary procedure—the rules of the plenary are simple—but the chairperson must be consistent and fair. You may want to designate a secretary or time-keeper to assist the chairperson.

Discussion Leaders

The work of the Jefferson Meeting begins in issue committees, and the work of the issue committees begins with a good discussion leader. Delegates to your Jefferson Meeting will be assigned to a particular issue committee—for instance, the committee on the President's term of office—on the basis of their expressed interests. When the members of each committee meet for their committee meetings the discussion leader gets the committee's work started by presenting a brief overview of the committee's issue, then stimulates discussion of the issue, and answers questions about both the issue and the procedure for debating it. The objective at this stage of the issue committee meeting is to help delegates decide whether they favor or oppose the proposed change in the Constitution they are considering. These delegates then divide into "pro" and "con" groups within the committee and prepare presentations for the plenary session.

Experience has taught that humanities scholars--political scientists, historians, and others—make good discussion leaders. You may want to contact such scholars at a local community college, college, or university to enlist their help. Your state humanities council or foundation can help you find scholars with appropriate skills and interests and may be willing to pay them for their participation. If you decide to find discussion leaders elsewhere, you should look for persons who have, or will work to develop, real expertise about the issue to be discussed. Moreover, you should look for discussion leaders who have no axes to grind on the issue being considered, because the discussion leader must help both pro and con groups in fashioning their arguments for the plenary session. In sum, discussion leaders need to be well-prepared, helpful, and neutral.

Floor Managers

Once issue committees have divided into pro and con groups, each group needs the leadership of a floor manager. The planners of your Meeting may select such managers ahead of time or let each pro and con group on each issue committee select

their own floor manager from their own ranks. The floor manager coordinates the preparation of his or her group's delegates for the plenary session. This entails selecting delegates who will speak during the plenary, working with these speakers on the ideas and arguments to be presented in the plenary, and drawing up a "speakers list." The speakers list will be given to the plenary chairperson so he or she can call on appropriate speakers during plenary debates on each committee's issue.

Delegates

The Jefferson Meeting is unlike other conferences because the delegates themselves are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the issues and organizing and presenting a coherent debate. It is a unique opportunity for citizens to exchange ideas and learn from each other. The interaction between people from different backgrounds adds enormously to the intellectual stimulation of the Meeting and enhances its role as a community builder.

Getting a diverse group of delegates is the biggest challenge in organizing your Jefferson Meeting, but the basic strategy is simple: you should let as many people in your community as possible know about the Meeting and the opportunity to participate. Part III provides you a sample brochure announcing a Meeting and calling for applications from potential delegates. Such materials should be distributed widely and special efforts should be made to involve citizens who might not initially think they are capable of participating or welcome to do so. Over and over again, participants in Jefferson Meetings have commented on how an interesting mixture of delegates really made the Meeting they attended.

Basic Steps in the Jefferson Meeting

Setting the Agenda

The Jefferson Foundation has prepared Discussion Guides on six issues relating to constitutional change. You may wish to have your Jefferson Meeting discuss all six of these issues or only some of them. The number of issues to be discussed will depend on a variety of factors, like the number of delegates you plan to involve, how long you want your Meeting to last, etc.

Should you decide to discuss some but not all of the issues covered by the Discussion Guides you will need to make a decision about setting the agenda of issues to be discussed at your Jefferson Meeting. The planners of the Meeting can either set the agenda before sending out brochures and delegate applications or ask potential delegates which items on a list of possible issues for discussion they find most interesting. Each approach has its strengths and drawbacks. If the agenda is set by the Meeting's planners you can avoid the work of tabulating the issue preferences of delegates. You can simply announce the issues to be discussed and order the appropriate Jefferson Foundation Discussion Guides. This approach is simpler, but you run the risk of narrowing your pool of potential delegates by ruling out an issue that some might find especially interesting. Presenting a list of possible issues and asking delegates to specify which they find most interesting makes it certain that the agenda reflects delegates' interests and this heightens their feeling of participation and self-government. But tabulating delegates' responses about issue preferences will involve additional work.

The Opening Session

The opening session of your Jefferson Meeting gets things rolling. The entire delegation meets for a brief welcoming speech and a keynote address. The welcoming speech should give delegates a preview of what lies ahead. This would be a good time to simply summarize the schedule for the Meeting. The keynote address should touch on constitutional themes and help set the tone for the Meeting.

Issue Committee Meetings

Following the opening session, delegates meet in their various issue committees. Delegates are assigned to these committees on the basis of their expressed preferences. Each issue committee should have from twenty to thirty members. The issue committee meetings begin with a presentation by the discussion leader of an overview of the issue being considered. This will be followed in each committee by a free-wheeling discussion of the committee's issue. Committee members use this discussion to explore their issue thoroughly and to decide whether they favor or oppose the constitutional change their committee is examining. For example, a committee on judicial tenure and accountability would probably discuss how accountable a judge should be to public opinion. Should a judge do what the public wants when there is a strong public opinion? Or should a judge do what he or she believes is just, despite public opinion? Should the public have the right to periodically review the behavior of judges and replace them if it wishes? Should a judge serve for life "during good behavior" in order for society to benefit from his or her growing experience? Or should a judge serve a fixed term in order to assure the entrance of fresh ideas and perspectives into the judiciary?

After committee members have participated in these discussions they will be ready to divide into pro and con groups within each committee. It is desirable to have pro and con groups of equal size, but that won't always happen. At this point each pro and con group is led by a floor manager. The floor manager helps his or her group prepare for the plenary session. Assume that each pro and con group will be allowed to present eight speakers in the plenary session. The floor manager helps his or her group decide who will speak in the plenary and what each speaker will say. It is important for each group to orchestrate its plenary presentation so all the key points in their argument are presented with a minimum of repetition. Each committee's discussion leader will "float" back and forth between the pro and con groups, answering questions and helping with the development of ideas and arguments.

Issue committee meetings should last about three hours. This allows for the discussion leaders' presentations, discussion by the whole committee, division into pro and con groups, and preparation for the plenary session. At the end of the committee meetings floor managers should give the plenary chairperson a list of group members who have been chosen to present their group's arguments in the plenary.

The Plenary Session

The plenary session is the focal point of the Meeting. At the beginning of the plenary session the plenary chairperson should briefly review the schedule of the plenary session and summarize the rules of procedure for presentations by committees and for general debate. Each issue committee then presents its issue, in turn, before all the delegates to the Meeting. Each issue should be given a maximum of seventy-five minutes for presentation and discussion. This time would be allotted as follows:

3 minutes each for eight pro speakers = 24 minutes

3 minutes each for eight con speakers = 24 minutes

Open discussion by all delegates,
2 minutes for each speaker = 25 minutes

Pro and con speakers may yield to questions. Time spent answering a question is counted as part of the three minutes given to the speaker. Yielding to questions will extend pro and con presentations a little over the 48-50 minutes range. Speakers should be careful not to yield to too many questions because this can disrupt the flow of their presentations.

The amount of time given to each issue could be shortened by allowing for either fewer speakers or giving each speaker less time. Sixty minutes is probably the bare minimum that should be allotted to discussion of an issue. Whatever you decide about allotment of time, it is a good idea to give delegates a copy of the plenary session rules of procedure so they know how long each speaker may hold the floor, when he or she may yield to questions, and so on. These rules could be included in the program for your meeting.

The plenary chairperson presides over the Meeting and recognizes speakers, first from the speakers list and then from the floor. For each issue the chairperson calls first for the first pro speaker, then the first con speaker, then pro and con alternately until the speakers list has been exhausted. The chairperson may then call on speakers from the floor. The chair should be tactful but firm in holding speakers to their time limits. The atmosphere of the plenary, however, should be kept as informal as possible in order to encourage free exchange of ideas in the form of questions, rebuttals, and discussion. Each issue is called in turn until the plenary session has completed its discussions.

Schedules

A good schedule for your Meeting is one that gives most members of your community a chance to participate. That means scheduling around typical work hours and avoiding conflicts with other important events. A typical schedule would be as follows:

Friday:

4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.—Registration

6:00 p.m.—Potluck or served dinner

6:30 p.m.—Welcome and Keynote Speech

7:00 p.m.—Issue Committee Meetings begin

Saturday:

9:00 a.m.—Plenary Session begins

9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.—Issue 1

10:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.—Issue 2 (Continued on next page.)

11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.—Issue 3

12:45 to 1:30 p.m.—Buffet Lunch

1:30 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.—Issue 4

2:45 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.—Issue 5

4:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.—Issue 6

5:15—Plenary adjourns, reception and conversation

This schedule could be modified rather easily to accommodate variations in approach. You may decide to consider fewer than six issues, have lunch earlier, schedule ten minute breaks, etc.

A good community meeting can be held in one day, if you limit the agenda to two or three issues. In a one-day meeting committees meet in the morning with the plenary held in the afternoon. If a one-day meeting is planned, be sure to leave a little extra time between the committee meetings and the plenary session so designated pro and con speakers will have time to prepare their presentations.

PART IV

SUMMARY

I. Getting Started

— Establish a diverse and representative council of 10 to 15 members. Effective leadership by a quality chairperson or co-chairpersons is key to planning a successful Meeting.

—Assign tasks to groups within the council, including:

—fund-raising
—publicity
—facilities
—delegate recruitment
—arranging keynote speaker and discussion leaders

—Set time and place for the Meeting

II. Spreading the Word and Recruiting Delegates

—News Releases

—Brochure/Application form

— mailed to individuals recommended by council members and likely to be interested in participating
—distributed by organizations in the community

—Select Delegates and Establish Agenda of Issues

—Mailing to Delegates, including:

—Notification of acceptance as delegate
—Assignment to an Issue Committee
—Discussion Guides
—Program, if finalized

III. The Meeting

—Opening Session

—Welcome
—Keynote Address
—Review of program, rules of procedure, etc.

—Issue Committee Meetings

—Discussion leader prompts debate and discussion
—Pro and con groups emerge within each committee
— Floor managers for each pro and con group work to prepare for plenary session
—Speakers list is given to plenary chairperson

—Plenary Session

—Review of rules of procedure
—Issue 1:
—alternating pro and con presentations
—general discussion and debate

—Issue 2:
—alternating pro and con presentations
—general discussion and debate

And so on through the agenda

—Plenary adjourns

IV. The Follow-Up

— Similar meetings in schools, colleges and communities should be encouraged by delegates. They are now the "experts" and can help others plan Jefferson Meetings.

PUBLICATIONS ORDER FORM

Title	Price	Quantity Desired
To Make and Alter Their Constitutions of Government	.75	_____
So Great a Power to Any Single Person	.75	_____
During Good Behavior	.75	_____
The Plain Simple Business of Election	.75	_____
The Root of Republican Government	.75	_____
To Control the Abuses of Government	.75	_____
Pocket-Size U.S. Constitution	.75	_____
The Jefferson Meeting on the Constitution: The Constitution in the Classroom, A Guide for Teachers (includes all six discussion guides and Teacher's Guide)	12.00	_____

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

The Virginia Jefferson Association
Metropolitan Richmond Chapter
Announces

The Richmond Jefferson Meeting On The Constitution

An assembly, by and for the citizens of Metropolitan Richmond, to examine and reassess the institutions of American government as we enter our third century under the Constitution.

November 8-9, 1985
General Assembly Building
and
M.C.V. Auditorium
Richmond, Virginia

BACKGROUND

On June 25, 1788, the delegates to the Virginia ratifying convention approved the new United States Constitution by a vote of 89-79. They were voting to become part of an unprecedented experiment in republican government. The key concern at the ratifying convention was the viability of the soon-to-be national government. Thomas Jefferson and the founding fathers were hopeful that succeeding generations would keep this concern alive.

"Some men look at constitutions with sanctimonious reverence, and deem them like the ark of the covenant, too sacred to be touched. They ascribe to the men of the preceding age a wisdom more than human, and suppose what they did to be beyond amendment . . . I am certainly not an advocate for frequent and untried changes in laws and constitutions . . . But . . . laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind."

The preceding quote from Thomas Jefferson serves to explain the reason for the Jefferson Meetings which are taking place across the country. The first meeting, sponsored by the Jefferson Foundation, a non-partisan, non-profit organization, took place in Williamsburg in March of 1984. This meeting inspired the formation of the state organization, the Virginia Jefferson Association which is sponsoring similar meetings across the state.

The Richmond Jefferson Meeting will be an opportunity for interested Richmonders to discuss, debate and question whether the Constitution is still safeguarding the ideals of justice, freedom and representation upon which it was founded.

The agenda will focus on Constitutional amendments which have long been proposed dealing with the structure of the federal government. The Jefferson Meeting does not advocate change; it means to provide a new form of constructive citizen participation, an open forum through which people can examine the system as it enters its third century. It is absolutely non-partisan.

DELEGATE APPLICATION

The Richmond Jefferson Meeting
November 8-9, 1985
General Assembly Building and M.C.V. Auditorium
Richmond, Virginia

Applications should be mailed by October 11, 1985 to:
V.J.A., 317 Burnwick Road, Richmond, Va. 23227

Name _____

Home Address _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

Business Address _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

Please indicate the issue discussion group in which you would most like to participate. Show your priorities by marking them 1, 2, 3 etc.

_____ *The Constitution and the Amending Process*
_____ *Establishing Terms for the Federal Judiciary*
_____ *The Item and Legislative Vetoes*
_____ *Direct Election of the President*
_____ *Lengthening the Terms of Representatives*

(please complete reverse side)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

THE MEETING AGENDA

The spirit of participation is the essence of a Jefferson Meeting. Delegates will represent a cross section of the Metropolitan Richmond community and will conduct their own discussions on each of the five issues on the agenda. Thorough background material will be supplied to each delegate in advance of the meeting. Each group will choose its own leadership which will be responsible for presenting the pros and cons of the particular issue to the entire assembly.

The five issues to be addressed are:

1. The Constitution and the Amending Process
2. Establishing Terms of Office for Federal Judiciary
3. The Item and Legislative Vetoes
4. Direct Election of the President
5. Lengthening the Terms of Representatives

THE RICHMOND JEFFERSON MEETING SCHEDULE

Friday - November 8, 1985

6:30 p.m.	*Registration*
7:00 p.m.	*Keynote Address—M. Caldwell Butler, Former Member of Congress*
8:00 p.m.	*Meeting of issue groups to plan for Saturday assembly.*

Saturday - November 9, 1985

9:00 a.m.	*Presentation of issues 1, 2, and 3*
12:30 p.m.	*Lunch*
1:30 p.m.	*Presentation of issues 4 and 5*
3:30 p.m.	*Closing remarks*

HOW TO BECOME A DELEGATE

Every citizen of the Metropolitan Richmond area is eligible to apply for selection as one of the 150 delegates to the Richmond Jefferson Meeting. (Please use application form in this pamphlet.)

The basic eligibility requirement is an interest in the Constitution and in the effectiveness of government in our time. We believe that opponents of change are as important to lively debate as proponents.

All delegates who apply must be able to attend both sessions of the meeting.

Please complete the application form in this pamphlet and mail it to the address given by October 11, 1985. You will be notified of your selection by October 22 and background booklets will be mailed to you. If you have any questions, please call 266-3857 for information.

There will be no registration fee or other charge for participation in the Richmond Jefferson Meeting on the Constitution. Voluntary, tax exempt contributions to support the efforts of the Virginia Jefferson Association may be sent to the Association, 317 Burnwick Road, Richmond, Virginia 23227

"I know no safe depository of the ultimate powers of society but the people themselves: and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them, but to inform their discretion by education."

Thomas Jefferson

VIRGINIA JEFFERSON ASSOCIATION METROPOLITAN RICHMOND CHAPTER

RICHMOND COUNCIL

J. Stewart Bryan, III
The Reverend Benjamin P. Campbell
The Reverend Donald N. Cantwell
Ellen H. Chewning
Mrs. H. Hamilton Crockford, III
Virginius Dabney
John F. Daffron, Sr.
The Reverend Constantine N. Dombalis
Elsie S. Elmore
Dr. Samuel L. Hancock
John E. Leard
John A. Mapp
Gerald P. McCarthy
Ashton D. Mitchell, Jr.
Dr. Thomas R. Morris
Neilson J. November
Walter W. Regirer
Meredith T. Richardson
The Honorable James E. Sheffield
The Honorable Harold F. Snead
Bishop Walter F. Sullivan
Raymond P. Szabo
Saul Viener

STEERING COMMITTEE

Catherine M. Kasko, *Chairperson*
James E. Davis
Robert L. Flax
J. Richard Lawrence, Jr.
John E. Leard
Patrick M. McSweeney
Dr. Thomas R. Morris
Joseph B. Obenshain
Patricia L. Szabo

THE JEFFERSON FOUNDATION

The Jefferson Foundation is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization incorporated in Washington, D.C. The Foundation has two major purposes:

1. To enchance citizens' understanding of the Constitution and its history by involving them in debate and discussion of the fundamental principles of American government.
2. To study historical trends and contemporary opinion on constitutional reforms which have been proposed in Congress and by various groups as ways of improving the structure and functioning of government.

The Jefferson Foundation is a strictly non-partisan, non-advocacy organization which takes no position on any of the reform issues it studies. Its role is to promote informed and rational discussions of the fundamentals of the American system and to facilitate understanding of how the Constitution was made.

The Jefferson Foundation
1529 18th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 234-3688